

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING
EDUCATION**

MINUTES OF MEETING

OPEN SESSION

July 13, 2009

The Open Session of the Rhode Island Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education was called to order at 8:34 am on the above date in room 401, Department of Health, three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Law, so called, and other applicable sections of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island as amended.

RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION AND NURSING

Jeannine Borozny, RN

Genevieve Rodrigues, LPN

Sandra Mergerdichian, RN, MS

Catherine Rose, RN, MS, Secretary

Sharon Smith, RN, MS, President

Anne Tierney, RN, CRNA

Joslin Leasca, RN, MS, RNP, Vice President

Cristiana Rosa, MS, RN, PCNS

Peggy Matteson, RN, PhD

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Gerhardt

Theresa Jeremiah, RN

Manuella Raposa, Consumer

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Pamela McCue, RN, MS Director

Linda Tetu Mouradjian, RN, Compliance Officer

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Sharon Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 am. A quorum was established at this time.

2. PRESENTATION OF MINUTES OF OPEN SESSION OF June 8, 2009

Two typographical corrections identified by Catherine Rose: under presentation of minutes top of page 2 re “ensured” and duplicate entry of Catherine Rose on page one under attendance.

On motion of Jeannine Borozny, and seconded by Ann Tierney it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of June 8, 2009 with corrections as noted.

3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Sharon Smith, President of the Board, announced that this will be her last meeting as President of the Board as she will be away the first two weeks in September. Sharon took a few minutes to express her gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve as President and

work with all the other members of the Board. Sharon also expressed gratitude for being able to serve as a delegate to the delegate assembly of NCSBN.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pam McCue, Executive Director, thanked Sharon Smith for her leadership and service to this Board. Pam has asked that the other members of the Board whose term is expiring attend the September meeting until the new Board members are appointed by the Governor.

Pam has also noted that there has been a lot of interest from the community to serve on the Board. Pam is currently in the process of interviewing applicants who have expressed an interest in serving on the Board. Pam emphasized that it is especially important to note that the Board of Nursing is not an advisory board within the Department but an independent decision making body.

Pam reported that the Department will no longer accept handwritten responses from nurses who are responding to allegations brought to the Board. Moving forward this will eliminate the unnecessary time required to decipher illegible handwriting.

Pam announced that Board member Catherine Rose has been accepted to sit on the NCLEX Item Writing Board.

New language for proposed regulations will be brought to the Board in the early fall. This task will be worked on through the summer. There will be a community hearing and a public hearing scheduled as well after the language meets the Board's approval.

Pam noted that she had been invited to speak with Rhode Island College and URI student nurses relative to the application process for nursing licensure. Pam also discussed the expectations of the Board should a nurse be brought to the Board. Pam is happy to report that there have been few telephone call inquiries from applicants about the process as a result.

5. BUSINESS

Board Elections

A ballot was distributed to the Board Members to use to make their decision for elected officers FY 2009-2010. The office of President had 2 candidates for the office of President: Jocelyn Leasca and Catherine Rose. The office of Vice-President had one candidate: Sandra Mergerdichian. The office of Secretary had one candidate: Anne Tierney.

Linda Tetu-Mourajian, staff member, collected and tabulated the ballots. Outcome of the election: Jocelyn Leasca was elected to the office of President; Sandra Mergerdichian was elected to the office of Vice-President; Anne Tierney was elected to the office of Secretary.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rhode Island State Nurses Association, Executive Director, Donna Policastro announced that on Friday, September 25, 2009, the Nursing Foundation is sponsoring a half day program entitled “Nursing & Addiction”. The educational activity has been approved for 3.5 contact hours.

Peggy Matteson inquired about whether student nurses could attend the program? Donna confirmed that students should attend and noted that she is looking for a student nurse to participate on a panel to discuss substance abuse among students.

RISNA has also been actively working with the College Network to develop a Nursing Ethics course that will be available to nurses for continuing education purposes. RISNA members will be afforded a 10% discount. Pam McCue commented that she has reviewed the program objectives and content and finds them to meet the Board’s expectations for continuing education.

Donna Policastro noted that RISNA’s Annual Fall Meeting will be held on Monday, October 13th, 2009. The guest speaker is Dr. Ann E. Rogers and she will be speaking on the topic of sleep deprivation in nurses. Donna also noted that RISNA will be planning a special program for the student nurses on the topic of resume writing and

interviewing skills. This program will occur during the Annual Meeting.

Ruth Ricciarelli, the Executive Director for the Center for Health Professions at the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, was recently awarded a technical grant by AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The technical grant allows funding to assist in the development of ideas and eventually assist in completing an application for a grant funded project to address the looming nursing shortage in RI.

Pam McCue then recognized a student nurse from Regis College. As part of her studies she is required to attend a RI Board of Nursing meeting. Before adjourning to Executive Session, Ms McCue answered questions from the student regarding the role of the Board and its mission.

7. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Sandra Mergerdichian , seconded by Jeannine Borozny , it was unanimously voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws for the discussion of job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure and licensees and for discussion of investigatory proceedings relating to misconduct by applicants licensure and licensees, and investigatory proceedings regarding

allegations of civil or criminal misconduct. The Open Session adjourned at 9:07:32 am.

8. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION FOR PRESENTATION OF FINAL ACTIONS

Ms Smith called the Open Session back to order at 2:03 pm.

9. VOTE TO SEAL MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTIONS OF 42-46-5 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS

On motion of Ms. Matteson , seconded by Ms. Tierney , it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in the Executive Session and to seal those minutes in as much as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

10. PRESENTATION OF FINAL ACTIONS

The Board voted the following actions:

Melissa Deshazer, RN- Reprimand her license and require continuing education.

Christopher Bilski -Issue a RN license on a 2yr probation with practice restrictions.

Diane Default-Reinstate her LPN license without restrictions

The following cases were voted a finding of “No Unprofessional Conduct”

RN09-027

RN08-093

RN09-026

RN09-06

RN09-044

PN09-035

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Ms. Borozny, and seconded by Ms. Rosa, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 2::05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Rose, RN, MS, Secretary